

WiMAX will dominate fixed broadband wireless market but mobile services using the technology will be slower to take off

Mobile and fixed 802.16e WiMAX to overshadow fixed-only 802.16-2004 WiMAX by 2010.

7 February 2006 - WiMAX will quickly dominate the fixed broadband wireless market, but its success in the mobile arena will be slower and more difficult to achieve, according to **“Fixed or mobile WiMAX? Forecasts and assessment for the transition from 802.16-2004 to 802.16e WiMAX”**, a new report from Senza Fili Consulting.

Despite this, 802.16e—the version of WiMAX that supports mobile access—will be the clear winner over 802.16-2004, which only supports fixed services. Its superior performance meets the requirements of both fixed and mobile service providers and creates the economies of scale needed to drive equipment prices down. Even though it will not be available for a year or more after 802.16-2004, 57% of WiMAX subscribers will be using 802.16e by 2010.

However, mobile operators with 3G networks will not be the first to adopt WiMAX, according to Monica Paolini, author of the report. “New and established service providers that are eager to enter the mobility and portability market, but do not have cellular spectrum, will drive WiMAX adoption,” she said.

WiMAX offers both fixed and mobile access over the same infrastructure, opening the way for a new personal broadband service that gives users continuous broadband Internet access at home, at work, and while they are on the move.

By 2010, there will be 15.4 million WiMAX subscribers worldwide, generating US\$16.5 billion in service revenues. “The hottest markets will be emerging countries like China and Mexico where WiMAX is a cost-effective last-mile solution, and countries like Korea with a high demand for portable and mobile services,” said Paolini. In 2010, 41% of subscribers will be in Asia-Pacific countries.

WiMAX’s success will depend on the availability of 802.16e WiMAX-certified products early in 2007 and on a substantial price reduction for portable and mobile subscriber units, which Senza Fili Consulting forecast to decline to the US\$140-190 range by 2010.

This report assesses the technology and market potential of mobile and fixed WiMAX over the next five years. It includes an in-depth forecast of subscribers, service revenues and equipment revenues for 15 countries, six regions and for the worldwide market. The report is available at www.senzafiliconsulting.com.

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